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Amendment To The Claims**Claims 1-2 (Canceled)**

3. (Original) A point-to-multipoint satellite communication system, comprising:
a first directional satellite antenna for generating a wide beam communication signal to
illuminate a plurality of satellites;
means for generating a return communication signal from each of the plurality of
satellites;

a second satellite antenna, directed to a first one of the plurality of satellites, for receiving
said return communication signal from said first satellite; and
a third satellite antenna, directed to a second one of the plurality of satellites located
proximate to said first satellite, for receiving said return communication signal from said second
satellite only during sun transit outages of said second antenna.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein a diameter of the second and third
satellite antennas are greater than a diameter of the first satellite antenna.

5. (Currently amended) A method of performing satellite communication in a point-
to-multipoint communications system,
comprising the steps of:
aligning a first satellite antenna to illuminate a plurality of satellites;
transmitting a communication signal from the first satellite antenna to said plurality of
satellites;
broadcasting a return signal from each of said plurality of satellites based on the

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transmitted communication signal;

6. (Original) A method of performing satellite communication in a point-to-multipoint communication system, comprising the steps of:

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Claim 7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) An earth station for use in a point-to-multipoint communication system including a small satellite antenna for transmitting a wide beam communication signal and a plurality of adjacent geostationary satellites for retransmitting the communication signal from the small satellite antenna, the earth station comprising;
- a first large satellite antenna directed to a first one of the plurality of adjacent geostationary satellites;
 - a second large satellite antenna directed to a second one of the plurality of adjacent geostationary satellites; and
 - a receiver for receiving communication signals at one of the said first and second antennas, said receiver including an antenna switch selector for selectively activating said first and said second antennas, the selector activating the second antenna only during periods when the sun transits within a beamwidth of said first antenna.